

Brussels, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Dear Madame, Dear Sir,

Let us invite you to a Business Breakfast titled “SME access to finance”, which will be held in pleasant premises of the Czech Center in Brussels (Czech House, 60, Rue du Trône, Brussels) on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 from 8:30 to 10:00 am. The event is organized by CEBRE – Czech Business Representation to the EU in cooperation with the Czech Permanent Representation to the EU.

The SMEs are the backbone of European economy. Sufficient and affordable access to finance is a precondition for investment, growth and job creation by the private sector. To support small businesses and entrepreneurship, the EU and Member States must take urgent steps to substantially reduce administrative burden and ensure that banks resume their normal lending activities, says the Recovery plan. The EIB has put together € 30 bn for loans to SME's, an increase by € 10 billion over its usual lending in this sector and will also reinforce by € 1 bn a year its lending to mid-sized corporations. The Commission intends to put in place a simplification package, notably to speed up its State aid decision-making. The Czech presidency is to focus on Late payment Directive. Any kind of measures which could ease the SME access to finance is welcome.

Will the measures recently adopted by the Member States and the Commission help the SMEs to access to finance? Will the 30bn euros to be distributed via EIB reach the SMEs?

Questions should be answered by following speakers:

- Petr Dolejší, Chairman of the competitiveness WG, Czech Permanent Representation to the EU
- Dušan Ondřejíčka, Communication department European Investment Bank
- Jiří Plecity, Member of cabinet of Vice-president Gunter Verheugen
- Gerhard Huemer, Director of Economic and Fiscal Policy Unit, UEAPME
- Petr Zahradník, Czech analyst and economist (company Česká spořitelna)

We kindly ask you to confirm your attendance at [brussels@cebre.cz](mailto:brussels@cebre.cz) by January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009. To learn more about the event, please visit: <http://www.cebre.cz/cz/docs/SMEaccess>.

Kind regards,

CEBRE – Czech Business  
Representation to the EU  
[www.cebre.cz](http://www.cebre.cz)

Permanent Representation of the  
Czech Republic to the EU  
[www.czechrep.be](http://www.czechrep.be)